

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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SRS Summer Interns Shine at CNTA's Up & Atom Breakfast

Aiken, S.C. – Three summer interns from the Savannah River Site (SRS) shared their experiences and insights at Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness' (CNTA) July 24 Up & Atom Breakfast, highlighting the next generation of talent helping drive the future of nuclear science and technology.

The interns—representing a diverse mix of academic backgrounds—spoke to a full house at Newberry Hall in Aiken, offering a behind-the-scenes look at their hands-on contributions to projects across Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). One intern from each of these companies represented the more than 500 interns who worked at SRS this summer.

From supporting site operations and environmental stewardship to working on advanced robotics, AI, and radiation detection, the interns showcased the breadth of opportunities available at SRS and the innovation taking place across its programs.

“Being at SRMC provided me with a more wholistic perspective of the fuel cycle. It was an opportunity to do meaningful work, and to advance a meaningful mission!” said Alexander Smith, Intern, SRMC

“Nuclear is the future, and it’s my future!” said Colette Towles, ASPIRE Doctoral Intern, SRNL
“By advancing the study of engineered cellular magmatics, we’re working to reduce the solid waste generated in the US.”

“My internship at SRNS helped to stretch my skills and provide me with hands-on experience, for example, developing a ‘wall crawler’ robot that could be used to conduct inspections , saving time while maintaining safety standards,” said Kevin Yulkowski, SRNS Engineering Intern.

The interns expressed appreciation not only for the technical skills they’ve gained, but also for the mentorship, collaboration, and exposure to real-world challenges.

“We’re incredibly proud of these interns,” said CNTA Executive Director Allison Hamilton. “Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and drive are inspiring—and it’s clear the future of the nuclear workforce is in good hands.”

CNTA’s Up & Atom series is designed to inform the community on topics related to nuclear technology and its impact in the region. At the summer events CNTA also recognizes the winners of our annual High School Essay Contest and Educator Grants Programs. Up & Atom breakfast events are open to the public and held regularly throughout the year. The interns’ presentations can be found on CNTA’s website at: <https://cntaware.org/previous-up-atom-speakers/>.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For more information, contact CNTA at office@cntaware.org or visit www.cntaware.org.



Caption: The intern presenters answered the audiences’ questions after their presentations (left to right) Alexander Smith, Colette Towles, and Kevin Yulkowski.



Caption: SRNL Intern Colette Towles introduces her project to the audience.